

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03948 291237 Z

43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 PC-15 RSR-01 /118 W  
----- 084800

R 282206 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0314

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 3948

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV BL

SUBJ: MORE REACTION TO " CONSTITUTIONALIZATION"

REF: LA PAZ 3828, LA PAZ 3515

BEGIN SUMMARY. INTENSE SPECULATION CONTINUES IN POLITICAL CIRCLES AS TO PRECISE FORM WHICH ANNOUNCED " CONSTITUTIONALIZATION" WILL TAKE; LEADERS OF FPN MEMBER PARTIES ARE SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE PREMATURE " CAMPAIGNING" BY ASPIRING POLITICIANS, WHILE DECLARING THEIR CONTINUING LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT BANZER AND FPN CONCEPT. SOME INFORMED SOURCES INDICATE BANZER PLANS TWO- STAGE ELECTORAL PROCESS, WITH INDIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. MEANWHILE VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING PDC AND MNR YOUTH, ARE ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR THE ANTICIPATED 1974 ELECTORAL SEASON. END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS CONTINUE TO SPECULATE INTENSIVELY ON THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT' S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE " CONSTITUTIONALIZATION" OF THE COUNTRY IN 1974. SPEAKING FOR THE FSB, MARIO GUTIERREZ HAS STATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHIN THE FPN, AND DOES NOT PLAN TO PRESENT ITS OWN CANDIDATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 03948 291237 Z

IN THE ANTICIPATED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1974. AT THE SAME TIME, GUTIERREZ PLEDGED HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BANZER, INDICATING THAT BANZER IS ONLY INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIED TO LEAD THE FPN IN 1974 ELECTIONS. RUDY ARCE, MNR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FPN, HAS LIKEWISE

ATTEMPTED TO RESTRAIN SPECULATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, CRITICIZING THOSE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEGUN "PRE- CAMPAIGNS" IN ANTICIPATION OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1974.

2. AMONG NON- FPN PARTIES, PDC LEADER BANJAMIN MIGUEL HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAIN TO DEMAND REFORMS IN ADVANCE OF THE HOLDING OF ELCTIONS.

AMONG

MIGUEL' S PROPOSALS ARE: (1) ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DEFINITE DATE FOR ELECTIONS WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE; (2) FORMATION OF A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO PREPARE THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW; AND (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY CABINET TO CARRY OUT THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. THE PDC ALSO HAS COME OUT IN FAVOR OF AN OPPOSITION " LEFTIST FRONT" TO OPPOSE THE FPN IN THE ELECTIONS.

3. AS DISTINCT FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PARTY LEADERS, EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THAT AN INTENSIVE PROCESS OF PLANNING AND SPECULATION

WITH REGARD TO THE ELECTIONS IS OCCURING WITHIN ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY CONTINUES TO EXIST AS TO PRECISE NATURE OF THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. THUS, FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSEC CESPEDES TOLD AMBASSADOR JUNE 26 THAT THE PRESIDENT ENVISAGES FORMATION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY THE VARIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTORS; THIS ASSEMBLY WOULD THEN SELECT THE NEW PRESIDENT. SUCH A FORMULA, RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY, IS CONSISTENT WITH INDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE AMBASSADOR BY PRESIDENT BANZER EARLIER THIS MONTH. OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES WITHIN THE PARTIES, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DIRECT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOR ALL PUBLIC POSTS, FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UP TO THE PRESIDENCY ITSELF.

4. PERHAPS TYPICAL OF MANEUVERING NOW GOING ON WITHIN THE PARTIES WERE COMMENTS MADE BY SERGIO OTERO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MNR YOUTH AND A SUB- SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, TO EMBOFFS JUNE 27. OTERO ASSERTED THAT HE AND MNR YOUTH LEADER JULIO PRADO SALMON, INCUMBENT MINISTER OF PLANNING, WILL BEGIN A SERIES OF TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR A PLANNED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LA PAZ 03948 291237 Z

ATTEMPT BY THE MNR YOUTH TO DOMINATE THE NATIONAL MNR CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER. OTERO INDICATED THAT MNR YOUTH ANTICIPATES DIRECT ELECTIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, AND IS CURRENTLY

SEEKING CANDIDATE TO REPRESENT MNR IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE; HE  
DISCOUNTED POSSIBILITY OF A PAZ ESTENSSORO CANDIDACY IN VIEW OF  
KNOWN ANTI- PAZ SENTIMENT AMONG MANY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLITICAL  
CIRCLES.  
SIRACUSA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LAPAZ03948  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LA PAZ  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730632/aaaajtao.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 LA PAZ 3828, 73 LA PAZ 3515  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980304  
**Subject:** MORE REACTION TO " CONSTITUTIONALIZATION"  
**TAGS:** PGOV, BL  
**To:** ARA  
**SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USCINCSO**  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005